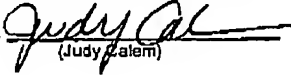


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited via facsimile to MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents - (571) 273-8300 and via facsimile to Examiner Bao Qun Li, M.D. - (571) 273-0904 on the date shown below.

Dated: August 28, 2006

Signature:

  
(Judy Cal)Docket No.: 322732000401  
(PATENT)**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Yoichi TAKAHAMA et al.

Application No.: 10/028,172

Confirmation No.: 2837

Filed: December 21, 2001

Art Unit: 1648

For: DIAGNOSTIC REAGENT FOR HEPATITIS C  
VIRUS INFECTION

Examiner: Bao Qun Li, M.D.

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the non-final Office Action on the merits mailed February 10, 2006 ("the OA"), Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment and consideration of the remarks set forth herein. A response to the Office Action was initially due May 10, 2006. Applicants submitted a petition for a two month extension of time to July 10, 2006, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, with the appropriate fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 on July 6, 2006. No material changes to the Amendment filed July 6, 2006 are made herein, just an underline change in claim 31(i) and changes to the status identifiers in claims 38-40. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.

sd-333023